

**Maryland State Board of Victim Services Meeting**  
**Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services**  
**Wednesday, January 26, 2022**  
**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Participating Members:**

Steve Kelly, Esq., Chair  
Heather Amador for V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.  
Anne Bean  
Theresa Hiegel  
Laurie Kimbles for Sheriff Gary Hofmann  
Molly Knipe  
Anne Colt Leites, Esq.  
LaJoy Preston  
Joe Riley, Esq.  
Jill Ritter  
Alonzo Robertson, Esq.  
David Shultie for Lou Gieszl  
Lisa Smith, Esq.  
Lisa Spicknall-Horner  
Patricia Stevens for Secretary Robert Green  
Jeanne Yeager

**Guests:**

Karen Darby, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services  
Lisae Jordan, Esq., Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

**Governor's Office of Crime Prevention Youth, and Victim Services Staff:**

Mary Abraham, Rebecca Allyn, and David Blum

**I. Introductions and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. Ms. Allyn conducted a roll call and guests introduced themselves.

**II. Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda contained the October 2021 Board meeting minutes and grant updates from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

- *Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Grant Updates:* Ms. Allyn shared with members that the Office has received Family Violence and Prevention Services ARPA funding. The funds can be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 virus to increase access to COVID-19 testing, vaccines, and mobile health units to mitigate the spread of the virus and increase supports for domestic violence survivors and their dependents. There is about \$6 million available

and the Office is currently brainstorming the proposal with stakeholders. Performance Incentive Grant Fund (PIGF) applications are currently under review. Continuation awards will be provided for Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) grantees so long as they are in good standing. The Office is evaluating if a NOFA will be issued for the Legal Services for Crime Victims (LSCV) program.

Mrs. Yeager made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Mrs. Bean seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

### **III. Strategic Planning Discussion**

Members met last month to discuss priorities and strategic planning for the Board. Priorities identified were:

- Develop an updated outcome-based strategic plan for victims of crime, to include: meaningful metrics for providers, priority areas for funding, and strategies to address the victim services response to COVID-19
  - Establishing collaborative projects
- Enhancing relationships with, and supporting, law enforcement, statewide coalitions, and state's attorney's offices
  - Members discussed increasing accessibility with court access for victims. Many victims are continuing to request to attend virtually, but not all jurisdictions have that capability as courts have resumed in person. Members emphasized that prosecutors need to advocate for what the victim wants.
  - Prosecution transparency
- Address underserved crime victims through outreach, training, and the encouragement of state and local agency collaboration
  - Victims' rights brochure translation

#### **Next Steps**

- Organize priorities
- Develop outcomes
- Identify actions needed to achieve outcomes

### **IV. Updates**

- *2022 Crime Victims' Rights Week*  
National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 24-30, 2022.

The 32nd Memorial Services for Crime Victims and Their Families will be hosted by the Harford, Prince George's, Washington, and Worcester County State's Attorneys' Offices on Sunday, April 24, 2022.

- ❖ Harford County (Northern Region) – In person and virtual
  - Memorial to begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Harford Community College, Chesapeake Center, 401 Thomas Run Road, Bel Air, MD 21015

- Virtual memorial to begin at 2:00 p.m. on the [Harford County State's Attorney's Office Facebook page](#)
- ❖ Prince George's County (Southern Region) – Virtual
  - Memorial to begin at 2:00 p.m. on the [State's Attorney's Office for Prince George's County YouTube page](#)
- ❖ Worcester County (Eastern Region) – Virtual
  - Memorial to begin at 1:00 p.m. on the [Worcester County State's Attorney's Office Facebook page](#)
- ❖ Washington County (Western Region) – In person and virtual
  - Memorial to begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Hagerstown Seventh-day Adventist Church, 11507 Robinwood Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740
  - Virtual memorial to begin at 2:00 p.m. on the [Washington County Board of County Commissioners YouTube page](#) or [Washington County Government Facebook page](#)

The 2022 Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference will be held virtually April 27-29. Conference topics will include: equity in victim services, AirTag stalking, establishing or enhancing law enforcement based victim service, victims' rights, promising practices for victim services and COVID-19 response, legislation, compensation, victim notification, human trafficking, teen dating violence, and work life balance. Registration is anticipated to open in March. A call for nominations for the 2022 Governor's Victim Assistance Awards will go out next week. Members will be called upon to review nominations.

- *Crime Victims' Rights Brochures and Forms*  
Ms. Allyn informed members that the victims' rights materials have been translated in Chinese, Korean, and French. The materials can be found [here](#). The next order of Crime Victim and Witnesses: Your Rights and Services brochures will contain a QR code to the Office's brochure website.
- *Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Workgroup (AAIWG)*  
The next AAIWG meeting will be February 22, 2022. Ms. Allyn will attend and report back to the Board on any victim response related efforts.

## V. Legislation

Members discussed legislation introduced this session.

- [House Bill 110/Senate Bill 429](#) - Criminal Law - Stalking - Penalties: Altering the penalties for stalking if the victim had a protective order in effect against the defendant at the time of the offense or the defendant had previously been convicted of stalking.
- [House Bill 148](#) - Criminal Law - Stalking - Definition: Altering the definition of stalking to include conduct which occurs in person, through electronic communication, or through the use of a device that can pinpoint or track the location of another without the person's knowledge or consent.
- [House Bill 153/Senate Bill 33](#) - Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Fourth-Degree Sexual Offense and Spousal Defense: Altering the definition of "sexual contact"; and repealing a

certain prohibition on prosecuting a person for rape or a certain sexual offense against a victim who was the person's legal spouse at the time of the alleged rape or sexual offense.

- [House Bill 209](#) - Criminal Law – Unnatural or Perverted Sexual Practice – Repeal: Repealing the crime of unnatural or perverted sexual practice.
- [House Bill 210](#) - Criminal Trials - Spousal Privilege - Exception - Providing that the spouse of a person on trial for a crime may be compelled to testify as an adverse witness if the spouse and the person on trial married after the date on which the alleged crime for which the person is on trial occurred.
- [House Bill 225](#) - Criminal Procedure - Victims of Sexually Assaultive Behavior: Requiring a State's Attorney to meet with a victim of sexually assaultive behavior or the victim's representative within 20 days after receiving a request from the victim regarding a decision by the Office of the State's Attorney to not file a charging document or dismiss charges against an alleged suspect; requiring the State's Attorney to explain the justification for a certain decision.

Ms. Allyn informed members that if there were any bills that they wanted the Board to consider supporting or opposing, that they should send the bill information to her as soon as possible for review.

Members discussed the budget proposed by the Governor and inquired if the Board could submit a letter to the Governor and legislature requesting an increase in funding to support victim services. Ms. Allyn advised that individual members should contact the Governor and the legislature on behalf of their organizations.

#### **VI. Old/New Business**

Nothing to report.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:03 a.m.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Meeting ID: [meet.google.com/oxq-gfm-x-ocz](https://meet.google.com/oxq-gfm-x-ocz)

Phone Number: 1 615-952-0727

PIN: 227 137 220#